

SUGAR—WEIGHING OF—UNAUTHORISED WEIGHTS

204. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether sugar is sold in the Government Fair Price Shops using weights which are not recognised by the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Police has taken any action against any Fair Price Shop keepers;

(c) if not, why not?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) No.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a).

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Can the Hon'ble Member for Food Supply assure this House that in Fair Price Shops weights are not used other than the weights recognised by the Government weights weighing $42\frac{1}{2}$ tolas for one pound.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): In some shops owing to the paucity of weights the English weights may have sometimes to be used. In order to make up correct weight additional weight will be put. That is because of the difficulty in getting weights. A proposal is under consideration whereby the whole weight is to be calculated according to the English system. When the lower denomination is used there will be less scope for any fraud or irregularity.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is there any contrivance to put the additional weight permanently there and the Tahsildar giving his seal of consent for it when the Tahsildar goes there.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): It is not sealed.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Is it not left to the keeper of the Fair Price Shop to use the additional weight with the weight there or not.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): So far as our information goes there is no fraud.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): I can point out to the police that the Fair Price Shops are not using proper weights?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): You can bring the matter to my notice instead of going to the police.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): The Hon'ble Member's reply was that there was no such thing, but later when I put the question the member himself admits that there is some trouble.

Mr. President: As I heard the Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies he admitted that there was a possibility of fraud. He did not admit the fact.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): It is still going on.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): We are trying to prevent such a loop-hole.

JAGGERY—PARTICULARS OF SALE, ETC.

205. Mr. P. P. Devassy (*Trichur-South*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) how much jaggery has been got down by the Civil Supplies Department till Medam 1119;

(b) how much has been sold;

(c) is the remaining stock in a condition fit for sale?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) About 541.38 tons (including gur).

(b) 519.25 tons.

(c) Yes, except some portion which has become damaged.

DAMAGED WHEAT—SALE IN AUCTION

206. Mr. P. P. Devassy (*Trichur-South*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether wheat has been sold in auction by the Civil Supplies Department at Rs. 1—8—0 per bag;

(b) if so, how many bags have been sold;

(c) what will be the average cost of each bag taking into account the cost at the place of purchase and all charges incurred on it thereafter till date of sale;

(d) what is the loss of the Government in that auction;

(e) are such auctions contemplated in respect of other articles?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) and (b) No. But 672 bags of damaged wheat were auctioned at an average rate of Rs. 5—5—2 per bag.

(c) Rs. 42—9—0.

(d) Rs. 25,025—But steps are being taken to claim compensation as the damage occurred during transit.

(e) Not at present. If further damaged supplies are received, it may be necessary to sell them in auction.

EGGS—EXPORT PROHIBITION

207. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether they have promulgated an order prohibiting the export of eggs from Cochin State;

(b) was any previous notice given to the exporters of eggs, about the intention of the Government to prohibit the export of eggs?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*):

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): May I know, whether a large quantity of eggs is exported from Ernakulam to British India?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Yes.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): May I know, whether these eggs are imported from Travancore?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): A major portion of it is imported from Travancore.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): By suddenly prohibiting the export of eggs were these exporters not put to considerable loss.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): Notice of such ban could not be given for reasons already stated in the case of bananas. In the present case we allowed them 2 weeks to export the major portion. About 14 lakhs of eggs have been allowed to be exported out of about 16 lakhs. The remaining portion of 2 lakhs was preserved here. We are still having applications for export of eggs.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): How many days did the Government take to allow this export?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): 2 days, in some cases 3 days. At the most 4 or 5 days.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know Sir, whether it was for purposes of ensuring a supply of eggs locally that this Control Order was issued?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): For getting sufficient quantity for local consumption.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know if sufficient quantity is assured to you whether you will be satisfied to get constantly that quantity and allow them to go on with the export freely.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): The Hon'ble Member has made that suggestion. It has to be examined carefully. When the stock is retained here we have to examine it everyday and see that the eggs preserved are proper eggs and not rotten ones and then the nature of the demand also varies in accordance with the availability of other food stuffs. The proposal put forward by the Hon'ble Member can be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know Sir, whether if the merchants undertake to give you constantly every day a quantity that you require, will you fix the quantity, and be satisfied.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member has already answered that the matter is under consideration.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): May I know, Sir, whether the Food Department is aware of the difficulties on account of taking only a portion of the imports from Travancore, the difficulties that the traders experience in placing orders and getting supplies and sending them.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul (*Director of Food Supplies*): There is no difficulty. As soon as the stock is produced here we take care to issue permits immediately and an alternative method has been suggested which we have to scrutinise minutely to see what the implications are.